

TITLE OF REPORT: **Integrated Adults and Social Care Pressures**

REPORT OF: **Steph Downey, Service Director Adult Social Care,
Integrated Adults and Social Care Services**

Summary

The report provides an overview of the national CQC Assurance programme for Adult Social Care, and the work Gateshead is doing to prepare for this.

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee regarding the preparatory work that Integrated Adults and Social Care Services is undertaking and facilitate scrutiny in respect of the work undertaken so far, and the work planned.

Background

2. As part of the Government plans for Adult Social Care it was announced that the Care Quality Commission would recommence inspections of Local Authority Adult Social Care services in 2023.
3. So far 5 volunteer pilot sites have been through the new assurance framework and inspection process.
4. Following the assurance process each Local Authority will receive a written report and a single word judgement:
 - Outstanding
 - Good
 - Requires Improvement
 - Inadequate

Thus far, none of the pilot sites have received their final judgement, although we understand they have received a draft report, which is being moderated by CQC.

Current Position

5. The Integrated Adults and Social Care Services department has been working with regional colleagues in the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) to prepare for the inspection and assurance process.
6. In October 2022 we took part in a regional challenge process, with a retired Director of Adult Social Services; this along with our own assessment of our areas of strength and areas for development, helped shape the departmental strategy and action plan were delivered to Committee in September 2023.
7. We are part of a number of regional Sector Led Improvement networks where we share good practice with our neighbouring Local Authorities and learn from each other.
8. Through these networks we have received feedback from both CQC and the Local Authorities that have been through the pilot inspections, which we are using to guide our own preparations.
9. Our current high level understanding of the inspection process is:
 - Annual conversation with CQC
 - Completion of a Self Assessment (areas of strengths and areas for development)
 - Notification of impending inspection
 - Identification of 50 case files
 - Information sharing
 - On site assessment: focus groups, case file audit, meetings with key people
 - Initial feedback and clarification process
 - Outcome and action plan
10. The service has identified a modest number of additional posts to facilitate both the inspection process, and the ongoing and continuous assurance/inspection readiness. Recruitment is ongoing.
11. Gateshead like all Local Authorities has been advised it will receive a one off payment of £26,730 which the Government believes will fund the additional capacity and capabilities required.
12. The draft self assessment is partially completed and will be finalised by end of November 2023 (the self assessment will then be updated on a planned basis). Relevant information and evidence is being gathered; e.g. the coproduction and consultation undertaken to review the Adult Social Care pages of the Councils website.
13. Work is ongoing in respect of the case file tracking process, and this will be complete by February 2024.
14. Colleagues across the service, wider Council and partner organisations have been kept up to date with tailored communications.

15. The Health and Wellbeing Board has agreed to establish an Assurance Sub Committee which will look at CQC and Ofsted Assurance via a Gateshead Health and Care System lens.

Recommendations

16. Care, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny committee is recommended to:
 - (i) Comment on the content of this report and identify any areas for further scrutiny
 - (ii) Consider how Scrutiny can help to inform the CQC Assurance process

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